



EUGENE
Parks and
Open Space

RiverPlay Playground

eugene

Outdoors

Spring 2012

A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

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www.eugene-or.gov/parks



Skinner Butte Trail

Blazing a New Kid-Friendly Trail to Skinner Butte Summit

Families visiting RiverPlay Playground this summer will be able to mix in a short nature walk by simply heading across the street, stepping on a fresh trail, and experiencing a slice of wilderness on their way to a big payoff — a panoramic view of Eugene.

For decades Eugeneans have been enjoying Skinner Butte Park, but it turns out a lot of folks don't know how to walk to the top of the butte from the park. To make it more accessible and encourage visitors, parks and open space staff are constructing a new, more visible trail head directly across from RiverPlay and renovating an existing section of trail that will make for a serene hike to the top. New interpretive signs with a detailed map of the butte, along with history and current information, will be sprinkled throughout the area, and a series of trail markers will make it easy for hikers to navigate their way up and down the north side.

So come out this summer and try this perfect family-friendly footpath dipped in sword ferns, native oaks and wildflowers on your way to a sweeping view of our city.



New Skinner Butte trailhead coming July 2012

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Bob Welch: Tribute to Eugene Parks Foundation

Editor's note: The following is a condensed version of Register-Guard columnist Bob Welch's keynote speech given at the Eugene Parks Foundation's Heroes dinner April 27, 2012, at the Eugene Country Club.

Parks allow children to have the one thing they need as children — childhoods. Parks allow all of us to be kids again. Parks draw us together ... allow us space to be alone ... just make us better people. And better people make for better communities.

I learned three things hiking the 452-mile Oregon portion of the Pacific Crest Trail last summer:

First, don't bring any reading material. You'll be too tired to read. Second, bring more toilet paper than you think you'll need. Finally, I learned this: What makes the Pacific Crest Trail special is that it's sprinkled with what's called "trail angels," quiet, behind-the-scenes folks who will leave you water, give you a place at their mountain lodge to throw your sleeping bag and come alongside you when you're lost in the snow and say, hey, follow us.

Tonight, we honor the Eugene Park Foundation's trail angels.

The quiet, behind-the-scene folks who make a good park system better. The ordinary people who do extraordinary things; who, like Pacific Crest Trail trail angels, throw out the welcome mat; leaders with the courage and creativity to say, hey, follow us.

AS I THOUGHT about tonight's subject, it dawned on me how easily our community takes parks for granted. How many people who sit in the Cuthbert or run Pre's Trail or walk their dogs in Alton Baker Park realize there was an actual man named Alton F. Baker who, 45 years ago, had the vision, the resources, and the heart to say: Let's build a park.

Years from now, who will remember that Ed Miesen of Seattle, who, instead of just taking the money and running for land he owned along the Ridgeline trail, instead worked with the city, endured years of red-tape and made countless trips from Seattle. Why? To make a deal happen so the city of Eugene could purchase this key swath of the trail — in a community where he doesn't even live?

If we take for granted those whose sacrifices allow us to have parks, perhaps we underestimate, too, what a difference they make in our lives. In Corvallis, I realized upon thinking it over, most of my childhood was spent in parks.

Now, here I am, at 58, taking my grandchildren to parks and hiking through parks to get ready for the Pacific Crest Trail — over 150 miles on the Ridgeline Trail last spring and summer — and looking forward to taking my 85-year-old mother to the Cuthbert to see Garrison Keillor this June.

Here's what I love about parks:

Parks allow children to have the one thing they need as children — childhoods. Parks allow all of us to be kids again. Parks draw us together ... allow us space to be alone ... just make us better people. And better people make for better communities.

If world leaders would meet at parks to discuss foreign policy, would there be wars? No way. There would be horseshoes and walks and leaders who previously despised themselves as teammates in the three-legged race.

So, thank you, all of you who have given of your time, talents and resources. You are the equivalent of a couple we met on the Pacific Crest Trail last years, Ben and Cate, Australians who had a simple tradition: At every resupply stop, they would buy a pop or a beer and carry it a ways — thirty miles in our case — and drop it off for the next hiker or hikers to come.

Why? Just makes the world a little bit better place and, hopefully, with an idea that the beneficiaries would do something nice for someone, too.

Likewise, you trail angels leave something for those you may never see, those who will follow and not only appreciate your generosity, but, we can hope, pay it forward.

That's how great community works.

Note: Welch has three new books due out this fall: "Resolve," about a WWII soldier who escapes the Bataan Death March and survives in the jungles of Luzon for three years; "Fifty-two Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life," nuggets of wisdom from America's favorite Christmas classic; and "Hiking Home" about his 452-mile trip on the Oregon portion of the Pacific Crest Trail.



RiverPlay Discovery Village Playground

photo by Chris Pietsch



Ridgeline Trail

Plans for the Ridgeline Trail Connection feature a bridge that spans one of the headwater tributaries of Amazon Creek, connecting Fox Hollow trail with the East Dillard trailhead.

Parks and Recreation Community Heroes Honored



Members of the Maurie Jacobs family received one of three Hero Awards.

In April, parks and recreation advocates gathered at the Eugene Country Club to take part in the Eugene Parks Foundation's 6th Annual Community Heroes Awards Dinner. This year the Eugene Parks Foundation named a long-time community leader and two Eugene Park Steward volunteers as community heroes for their extraordinary and lasting impacts on our parks and natural areas. The 2012 recipients were the Maurie Jacobs family; Matthew Bell and The Obsidians; and Brandi Ferguson and Friends of Awbrey Park. All proceeds from the dinner will benefit the nonprofit's mission to improve and enhance public parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities and services for the benefit of Eugene area residents. For more information visit eugeneparksfoundation.org

"You have pride in your home, pride in your place of business, your community is no different. It's a combination of the whole that makes this city the greatest community in the world."

--Maurie Jacobs

Creating New Connections on Ridgeline Trail

The Eugene Parks Foundation, Obsidians, and Disciples of Dirt are partnering with Parks and Open Space to build and maintain an exciting new Ridgeline Trail connection. This multiuse trail will extend just over a half mile, and feature a bridge over a headwater tributary of Amazon Creek, while connecting Fox Hollow trail with the East Dillard trailhead. This relatively small segment of trail will effectively leverage three miles of continuous trail for mountain bikers and six miles of continuous trail for hikers.

The experience of hikers and bikers will be dramatically improved by allowing safe passage to Mt. Baldy without having to traverse along the shoulder of Dillard Road. The Eugene Parks Foundation is currently raising funds for the project through private sponsorships and grants and is hopeful construction will begin in 2014. This project is possible because the City's partners (the Obsidians, the Eugene Parks Foundation and Disciples of Dirt) are pitching in to help maintain the new trail after it is constructed. To learn more about the project or to make a donation, please visit eugeneparksfoundation.org or contact Eugene Park Stewards Coordinator Carrie Karl at carrie.l.karl@ci.eugene.or.us

Happy Trails to Our Parks and Open Space Director

For more than 10 years, Johnny Medlin has been leading the Parks and Open Space Division, but starting this summer he's off on a new adventure – retirement. Best wishes Johnny.



South Eugene Meadows

Restoration Ecologist Emily Steel leads a tour of the new site.



New Park Identity Signs Installed

Contractors completed installation of 28 new park identity signs in the fall of 2011. Forty-four parks now sport the new identity signs, which represent nearly a third of all Eugene park sites. The new signs replaced aging and deteriorating wood signs with durable metal framed signs that will significantly lower maintenance needs over the life of the signs. The panels are a laminate product that has proven highly resistant to vandalism in the field.

Partnerships Help Bond Funds Go Further

By Park Planning Manager Neil Bjorklund

In December 2011, the Parks and Open Space Division acquired the 193-acre “South Eugene Meadows” site for the Ridgeline Trail park system.

This acquisition was made possible by a \$750,000 grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, an \$886,000 grant from the Bonneville Power Administration, and a \$790,000 donation from the landowner to match \$713,000 in City bond measure funds. In addition to these acquisition funds, the City received \$188,000 in “stabilization funding” from the Bonneville Power Administration, which will allow the Parks and Open Space Division to maintain the site for the next three years.

South Eugene Meadows is located to the west of Spencer Butte Park and provides wonderful views of Spencer Butte. The site also contains a beautiful mixture of oak woodland, oak savanna, and upland prairie habitats, which have been identified by multiple conservation organizations as priority habitats to be conserved in the Willamette Valley.

Altogether, since passage of the 2006 Bond Measure, nearly 900 acres of Ridgeline park land have been purchased, utilizing bond funds matched with a variety of other funding sources. These properties provide key linkages along the Ridgeline corridor and also provide substantial natural resource and scenic value. Included are 39 acres in the Amazon Headwaters area, the 200-acre Arlie property adjacent to Mt. Baldy, an additional 316 acres acquired last year from Arlie & Co. in the same area, and 200 acres purchased from Ed Meisen west of Blanton Ridge. Donations were received from four of the sellers totaling \$1.4 million dollars.

Another 2006 Park Bond project is also nearing completion, this one involving a partnership between the City and 4J School District. The majority of the work to replace the artificial turf fields at North Eugene, South Eugene, Sheldon, and Churchill High Schools has been completed. The City is splitting the expenses 50/50 for this project with 4J School District. So far, the City has paid about \$870,000 from 2006 Park Bond funds to cover the City’s share. These all-weather playing fields are very popular, especially for wet season sports such as soccer and football.

Delta Ponds Project Receives Award from State Land Board



In early April 2012, the City of Eugene’s Delta Ponds Enhancement Project was honored to receive a State Land Board “Stream Project Award”, which recognizes responsible, sustainable stewardship of Oregon’s natural resources, as well as partnerships that advance the work of the Board. The award was presented by Governor John Kitzhaber, Secretary of State Kate Brown, and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler at a ceremony in Salem. City partners on the project from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the NOAA Restoration Center joined City staff at the ceremony.

At the Stream Project Award ceremony, from left to right: Oregon State Treasurer Ted Wheeler; Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown; Representative Nancy Nathanson; City of Eugene staff Eric Wold, Lori Holts, and Trevor Taylor; Megan Hilgart, NOAA; Jim Adams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Pratt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Governor John Kitzhaber



Awbrey Park adopts the Friends of Awbrey Park planting trees in honor of Arbor Day.

Adopt Your Park!

By Park Development Coordinator Carrie Peterson

In today’s fiscal climate, Eugene’s parks and natural areas are more precious and appreciated than ever before. Yet, like virtually all cities in the United States, Eugene is faced with a smaller budget to care for these high use areas. The Parks and Open Space Division is working hard to expand the community’s involvement in caring for these resources and offering a fun way for community members to connect. The Eugene Park Stewards volunteer program has opportunities for businesses, neighborhood groups, service clubs, and more, to provide ongoing stewardship through park adoptions, sponsorships and volunteer-based leadership.

For more information contact Park Development Coordinator Carrie Peterson at carrie.a.peterson@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-4907.



Skinner Butte adopts Eugene Downtown Rotary Club get a load of spring cleaning done.

The mission of Eugene Park Stewards is to build an informed and engaged community dedicated to addressing the needs of parks and open space through ongoing stewardship.

Community Helps Shape New Family Y Proposal for Bethel Park

By Landscape Architect Emily Proudfoot

The Eugene Family Y is proposing to construct a new community center in Bethel Park as a way to expand recreation services in northwest Eugene. While the existing master plan for the park included a 10,000 square foot community center, the Y’s proposal is for a 65,000 square foot facility. The Y facility would support activities for all ages and abilities and would eventually include a new aquatic center in the second phase of the project.

In order to accommodate this new facility, Parks and Open Space required that the master plan be updated to reflect the larger building and the additional required parking. Staff engaged hundreds of neighbors and the community-at-large in an eight-month process that included four on-line surveys and meetings to understand neighborhood issues and develop a proposal that most participants were happy with.

Input from the community directly informed the proposals staff made back to the public, as well as the final decision. The updated master plan will now be used as the basis for applying for a new conditional use permit for the park. The permit application process will begin in August of 2012 and will likely conclude a year later in the summer of 2013. Public information and feedback will be a continuing component of this second phase of planning work. If you have questions about this project, please contact Parks and Open Space Landscape Architect, Emily Proudfoot at emily.a.proudfoot@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-4915.



Summer in the City

Eugene sizzles!

Parks and bike bridges are hopping with music, movies, skate competitions, dance parties, bike safety checks—and so much more! For more information visit

eugene-or.gov/SummerintheCity
or EugeneAGoGo.com

MAY

25, Friday, 7 – 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast at the Bike Bridges Blue Heron Bike Bridge, behind Caesar Chavez Elementary (on W. 14th)

JUNE

29, Friday, 7 – 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast at the Bike Bridges Amazon Trail and 24th

JULY

4, Wednesday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Eugene Symphonic Band** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

6, Friday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Beethoven**, Rated PG, 87 minutes. Petersen Barn Center, 870 Berntzen Road

7, Saturday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Little Rascals**, Rated PG, 82 minutes. University Park, 24th and University

8, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. **Joe Manis/Justin Morell Duo** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

12, Thursday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Get Your Chops Back!** Washington Park, along 19th – 21st and Washington St. Bring your instrument and play with us. Check website for music.

13, Friday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Adventures of Tintin**, Rated PG, 107 minutes. State Street Park, Burnett and Dakota

15, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Asculta! Woodwind Quintet** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

20, Friday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Cars 2**, Rated G, 113 minutes. Washington Park, along 19th – 21st and Washington St.

21, Saturday, 5 p.m. **Skate Competition**, Registration begins at 4 p.m. Parents must register 18 and under, Cal Young Skatepark, Gilham and Crescent

21, Saturday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **The Mighty Ducks**, Rated PG, 100 minutes. Trainsong Park, Bell Avenue off Bethel Drive

22, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Springfield Concert Band** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

26, Thursday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Mutsi Marimba** Awbrey Park, Spring Creek Drive off River Rd.

27, Friday, 7 – 9:30 a.m. **Breakfast at the Bike Bridges** Greenway Bike Bridge, across from Valley River Center

27, Friday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Bedknobs and Broomsticks**, rated G, 118 minutes. Sladden Park, N. Adams and Cheshire

29, Sunday, 2 – 6 p.m. **Sunday Jam: Dancin' in the Park** Sladden Park, N. Adams and Cheshire
29, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Oregon Tuba Ensemble** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

AUGUST

3, Friday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Puss in Boots**, rated PG, 90 minutes. Willakenzie Park, Best Lane off Willakenzie

4, Saturday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Hugo**, Rated PG, 127 minutes. Bethel Community Park, off Haviture Way

5, Sunday, 2 – 6 p.m. **Sunday Jam: Dancin' in the Park** Sladden Park, N. Adams and Cheshire

5, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Eugene Highlanders Pipe Band** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

10, Friday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Rango**, Rated PG, 107 minutes. Churchill Youth Sports Park, Bailey Hill and W. 18th

11, Saturday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Flight of the Navigator**, rated PG, 88 minutes. Monroe Park, 10th and Monroe

12, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Calamity Jazz Dixieland Band** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

16, Thursday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Live Music: **Cowboy Cadillac** Amazon Park, next to Amazon Community Center

17, Friday, 9ish p.m. Movie: **Kung Fu Panda 2** en Espanol, rated PG, 90 minutes. Petersen Barn Center, 870 Berntzen Road

19, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Junction City Polka Band** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

23, Thursday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **The Cheeseburgers** Skinner Butte Park, next to Campbell Center

26, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **Oregon Brass Society** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

31, Friday, 7 – 9:30 a.m. **Breakfast at the Bike Bridges** DeFazio Bike Bridge, Alton Baker Park



SEPTEMBER

2, Sunday, 2 – 6 p.m. **Sunday Jam: Dancin' in the Park** Sladden Park, N. Adams and Cheshire

2, Sunday, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Live Music: **One More Time Marching Band** Washburne Park, Agate and 20th

28, Friday, 7 – 9:30 a.m. **Breakfast at the Bike Bridges** Frohnmayer Bridge (formerly Autzen Footbridge)

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Making the Best Use of Park Resources

Keeping Safety First and Reducing Maintenance Costs

By Landscape Architect Emily Proudfoot

In a challenging economic climate, Parks and Open Space is focusing its resources on those projects that will reduce hazards and keep our park patrons safe. Over time, many of these repairs will also help reduce the long-term maintenance needs of Eugene's park and natural areas.

Several parks throughout the system will see renovations to cracked and failing concrete sidewalks this year. Planning is ongoing for project work at Amazon, Tandy Turn, Alton Baker, Tugman and University Parks. A total of 24,000 square feet of concrete has been identified for replacement to maintain safe and accessible routes to and through these parks. Parking lots at Petersen Barn, Sheldon Community Center, Amazon Community Center, Amazon Ball Field, Skinner Butte at RiverPlay, and Wayne Morse Family Farm will see resurfacing and re-striping work. These projects will be completed in conjunction with several of the street pavement preservation projects around the City.

Owen Rose Garden will also receive some essential renovations aimed at reducing the long-term maintenance requirements of the garden. The area around the gazebo—which is frequently used for weddings—will be improved with more accessible and lower-maintenance concrete paving. The high-maintenance mixed perennial beds east of the entrance arbor will be converted to turf to better suit receptions and other events at the garden. Rejuvenation of the rose beds will continue into the fall 2012 with the elimination of beds under trees and removal of diseased or poorly-performing roses throughout the garden.

A third significant project will be to repair the lighting system along Pre's Trail in Alton Baker Park in preparation for the Olympic Trials in early summer. Many of the fixtures have been vandalized and much of the copper wire stolen out of the



Certified Playground Inspector/Park Specialist Iris Edmiston checks playground equipment at RiverPlay.

system. Repairs will include installation of new fixtures where necessary, and secure vandal-resistant placement of a new wiring system to prevent future wire theft.

And lastly, playground safety will be enhanced through a project to replace decaying wood decking and railing at Monroe, Myra's, Sladden, and Petersen Parks. Rubber safety mats will also be replaced with new interlocking safety tiles at several playground sites.

If you have questions about ongoing repairs and renovations in the park system or you see a hazard or repair that should be addressed, please give our office a call and ask for Kevin Foerstler at 541-682-4800.

New Park Just for Small Dogs

On November 18, 2011, Eugene's first small dog park officially opened. The park was created to provide a safe and secure area for off-leash dogs 25 pounds and under. The park is the culmination of several years' worth of effort by a volunteer group of small dog owners, which formed in response to several attacks on small dogs by larger dogs in existing dog parks. The half-acre park is located in the south end of the existing Amazon Dog Park. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped construct the park in record time and to the volunteer group that has agreed to maintain the area.



Proposed Ferndale Park Waterway Project Improves Water Quality

The City of Eugene is embarking on a series of projects to improve how water draining from streets and other hard surfaces (stormwater) is treated in parts of River Road and Santa Clara before it enters the groundwater or local waterways. One of the first of this series of projects might take place in Ferndale Park, an undeveloped 4.4 acre neighborhood park located in the Santa Clara area of Eugene. The park's existing waterway, a remnant channel of Spring Creek, could be expanded and enhanced to treat stormwater from a portion of the surrounding neighborhood.

To help inform the decision, a public meeting was held on April 4 at Spring Creek Elementary School, and an online survey gathered additional feedback. The decision will be posted on the Ferndale Park web page eugene-or.gov/Ferndalepark in May. For more information, or if you would like to be put on the interested parties list, check the web page or send an email to philip.s.richardson@ci.eugene.or.us. For information about the series of projects, please read the City of Eugene Stormwater Management Program's Drywell Program Fact Sheet located at eugene-or.gov/drywell.



Friends of Hendricks Park June Birding Tour



Birding Tour on Sunday, June 3, 7:30 a.m. with Allison and Tom Mickel. Learn to identify the park's resident birds and their songs. Meet at the F.M. Wilkins Shelter, 2200 Summit Avenue in Hendricks Park, and all tours last from one to two hours. To see the summer's full tour schedule go to friendsofhendrickspark.org



Owen Rose Garden Volunteers Welcome

Community members are invited to help care for the Owen Rose Garden every Thursday throughout the year from noon to 3 p.m. Both rose experts and people who just want to learn about caring for roses are welcome to volunteer. Hands-on instruction will be provided. Volunteers meet at the Rose Garden maintenance shop (just west of the parking lot). There is no need to preregister but please bring gloves and small hand weeding tools. Afternoon tea and a snack provided. For more information contact garden staff at 541-682-5025 or clay.k.manders@ci.eugene.or.us

Eugene Outdoors is published annually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene's parks and open space system, and encourage the community to enjoy our recreational facilities, parks and natural areas.

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Kelly Darnell, Editor
Jeffrey Jane Flowers, Graphic Designer

JUNE

9, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Free Fishing Day**, Alton Baker Park canoe canal, ODFW, Kelly.e.reis@state.or.us

10, Sunday, 8 a.m. start time, Why Not Tri Youth Triathlon, Amazon Park trails, The Multisport Advantage, themultisportadvantage@gmail.com

JULY

4, Wednesday, 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Butte To Butte**, Skinner Butte Park and trails, Eclectic Edge Events, William@eclecticedgeevents.com

6, 7 & 8, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Art and the Vineyard, Alton Baker Park shelters and surrounding areas, Maude Kerns Art Center, Karen@mkartcenter.org

20, 21 & 22, Friday – Sunday, open at noon, **Emerald Empire HempFest**, Maurie Jacobs Park, THC Foundation, dankoozer@yahoo.com

21, Saturday, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. **Bite of Eugene**, Alton Baker Park shelters and surrounding areas, Eugene Magazine, steve@eugenemagazine.com

28, Saturday, 5 – 9 p.m. **Obon and Taiko Festival**, Alton Baker Park, LRCS Recreation Division, billie.c.moser@ci.eugene.or.us

AUGUST

11, Saturday, noon – 7 p.m. **Eugene/Springfield Pride Day**, Alton Baker Park shelters and surrounding areas, Pride Day Equality Project, davemcor69@yahoo.com

26, Sunday, 7:30 a.m. – noon, **Eugene Women's Half 2012**, Alton Baker, Maurie Jacobs and Delta Ponds parks, info@eugenewomenshalf.com

SEPTEMBER

2, Sunday, 7:45 – 11 a.m., **Hero Dash**, Alton Baker Park, HEROweb Marketing and Design, mindy@heroweb.com

9, Sunday, noon – 4 p.m., **Eugene Sunday Streets**, University and Washburne Parks, City of Eugene Engineering Division, Lindsay.r.selser@ci.eugene.or.us

See page 6 for
a listing of free
outdoor events
that are part of
Eugene's

Summer in the City!



Eugene Sunday Streets on September 9.